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ELECTRIFICATION OF SVERDLOVSK OBLAST AND CITY CRITICIZED

REVEAL FUTURE OF RURAL ELECTRIFICATION -- Moscow, Izvestiya, 21 Nov 51

The complete electrification of rural regions was accomplished in Sverdlovsk Oblast before anywhere else in the USSR. During the postwar Five-Year Plan, the kolkhozes of the oblast built 134 GES, 516 TES, 675 transformer substations, and 8,218 kilometers of transmission lines. At the beginning of 1951, electric lights were installed in 113,500 kolkhoz houses, and in hundreds of schools, hospitals, clubs, and libraries. Of the 498 movie theaters in the oblast, about one half receive power from permanent power networks and the rest from portable power plants.

In many rayons the electric power stations and transformer substations work rather irregularly. Electricity is used mainly for lighting, and its introduction for other kolkhoz activities is very limited and very slow. There are quite a number of kolkhoz electric power stations which have been under construction for 5 or 6 years and are not yet completed. Some GES are out of commission and their restoration has been delayed. Of these, eight were earmarked for restoration in 1951 but nothing has been done so far.

The Oblast Glavsel'elektro (Main Administration of Rural Electrification) Trust fulfilled only 49.5 percent of the plan for the first 8 months of 1951. Because of breakdowns of the engines and generators, damage to dams, or uselessness of the transmission lines, 121 TES and 25 GES have been out of commission for a long time. Furthermore, 53 transformers, 289 kilometers of high-voltage transmission lines, and 2,404 kilometers of low-voltage lines are out of commission. Many kolkhozes officially listed as electrified do not receive power. In Makhevskiy Rayon, only one of the 14 kolkhozes receives electric power regularly, eight receive it very irregularly, and five do not receive it at all. Of 17 artels in Shalinskiy Rayon, nine do not have electricity. Similar conditions prevail in Lenskiy and Manchazhskiy rayons.

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The reason for this deplorable state of affairs is that since the beginning of electrification, the kolkhozes have not been given managerial and technical aid for the proper maintenance of equipment installed at the electric power stations. Although the Glavsel'elektro operations office has 15 interrayon service offices, they serve fewer than one third of the total number of electrified kolkhozes. The kolkhozes of the 14 important agricultural rayons have over 200 power stations which have never received any qualified technical assistance from any organization. The electrical equipment of disrepair. There are 1,527 electric motors which need repairs, but nobody knows where and by whom they can be repaired. The six existing repair shops under the oblast operational office are of a primitive type and are not capable of coping with the situation. Although so much time has elapsed, there is no organized supply of spare parts, lubricating products, or electric fittings. Moreover, the majority of kolkhozes have no qualified electricians.

Several departments and organizations are in charge of different aspects of the oblast's rural electrification. The Oblast Glavsel'elektro Trust builds new electric power stations and restores and repairs old ones; Gossel'energonadzor (State Rural Power Inspectorate) exercises technical state control over their operation; Oblpotrebsoyuz (Oblast Consumers Union) is supposed to supply the power stations with lubricating products and electric equipment; the Oblast Agricultural Administration is in charge of training skilled electricians and of mechanizing cattle breeding kolkhozes; and the Sverdlovsk branch of Giprosel'elektro (State Planning Institute for Rural Electrification) prepares construction plans for the power stations.

The net result of this division of duties is confusion.

LARGE SVERDLOVSK BUILDING WITHOUT ELECTRICITY FOR MONTHS -- Moscow, Krokodil, No 5, 20 Feb 52

For some time, the stores of Sverdlovsk have been doing a flourishing business selling candles and kerosene lamps. These outmoded articles were wanted by the tenants of the so-called Delovoy Dom (Business Building), in which dozens of planning, sale, and other organizations have their offices.

It all started last summer when a fire inspector condemned the electric wiring throughout the building. As a result, Pavlov and Shuster, the fast-working leaders of the Municipal Housing Administration, immediately put a gang of electricians on the job, and the building was stripped of all its electric wiring in no time. Neither the electricians nor Pavlov and Shuster have come near the building any more, because they found out that no materials were available in Sverdlovsk for replacing the wiring.

As a result, the Delovoy Dom was decorated for some time with lighted candles like a Christmas tree. But alas! The same fire inspector came again and condemned the candles too. Now the noise of the typewriters and calculating machines in the building dies down with the daylight. The employees quit work until the next morning, which fortunately arrives punctually because the sun is much more efficient than the Sverdlovsk Housing Administration.

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